



March 5, 2007

H.R. 903 – Colorado Northern Front Range Mountain Backdrop Protection Study Act

Floor Situation

H.R. 903 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Mark Udall (D-CO) on February 7, 2007, and has not been considered by any committee in the 110th Congress.

H.R. 903 is expected to be considered on the floor on March 5, 2007.

**Note: During the 109th Congress, Rep. Udall introduced identical legislation, the Colorado Northern Front Range Mountain Backdrop Protection Study Act (H.R. 2110), which passed the House of Representatives by voice vote on September 27, 2006. The Senate received the bill, but took no action.*

Summary

H.R. 903 seeks to identify options that may be available to assist in maintaining the open space characteristics of lands that are part of the mountain backdrop of communities in the northern section of the Front Range area of Colorado.

The bill would authorize a study to be conducted by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Forest Service, on the best way to protect open space between the Denver-metro area and the National Forest.

This study must be completed within one year and shall include a report detailing:

- Who owns the land within the study area?
- What undeveloped land within the study area is at risk of being developed?
- What actions could be taken to preserve the open and undeveloped character of the land?

Background

The State of Colorado has grown significantly in recent years and even gained a House of Representatives seat in the last census. The Denver-Metro area has expanded and may

continue expanding into the “front range” of the Rocky Mountains. The Forest Service manages the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest, which is west of the “front range.”

Cost

H.R. 903 has not been scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

**Note: Similar legislation introduced in the 109th Congress, the Colorado Northern Front Range Mountain Backdrop Protection Study Act (H.R. 2110), was determined to have no significant affect on the federal budget.*

Staff Contact

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